

Geneva Wilderness Area Improvements

April 24, 2015

Project Summary:

The County initiated a series of projects designed to encourage access to, enjoyment of and appreciation for Seminole County's Natural Lands properties, specifically the Black Bear Wilderness Area, Lake Harney Wilderness Area and the Geneva Wilderness Area. Various improvements include the construction of boardwalks at Black Bear and Lake Harney; an elevated overlook and observation platform at Lake Harney; and a fishing pier and educational pavilion at Geneva. Approximately \$1.25 million from the Natural Lands Bond Fund established through voter approved referendums in 1990 and 2000 are allocated for the construction of these projects.



Geneva fishing pier during 2015 Spring Break Eco-Camp

Project Chronology Overview:

The County selected the consultant team of Miller Legg, Inc. to serve as the engineers of record for the project in 2011 through a competitive selection process. In the fall of 2013, the construction of the project was competitively bid with Shoemaker Construction Inc., being awarded the contract. Construction began in 2014 once construction permits were in place.

Pavilion and Fishing Pier

3485 North County Road 426, Geneva

The Ed Yarborough Nature Center at the Geneva Wilderness Area has become a popular destination for outdoor education. When schools visit on field trips and children attend the County's Eco Camps, capacity is limited due to the amount of flexible teaching space. To address this need, improvements include construction of a 1,600 sq/ft outdoor pavilion with restrooms situated within close walking distance of the existing Nature Center to allow for flexible outdoor assembly.



A fishing pier was also constructed in close proximity to the Nature Center so children and other visitors can learn to fish, participate in hands-on educational programs and enjoy being out over the water. Natural Lands Staff, in

conjunction with this construction, applied for and was awarded a grant at no cost to the County 200 fishing poles for use by children participating in Natural Lands educational programs.

Completed Improvements:

1. 1,600 sq/ft outdoor covered pavilion with restrooms and storage
2. ADA path connecting the main Nature Center campus and the proposed pavilion
3. Fishing pier approx. 264' linear feet in length with floating dock and fishing area
4. Educational signs



New pavilion at Ed Yarborough Nature Center

"The Wetlands Room" at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center

3485 N. County Rd. 426 Geneva, FL 32732

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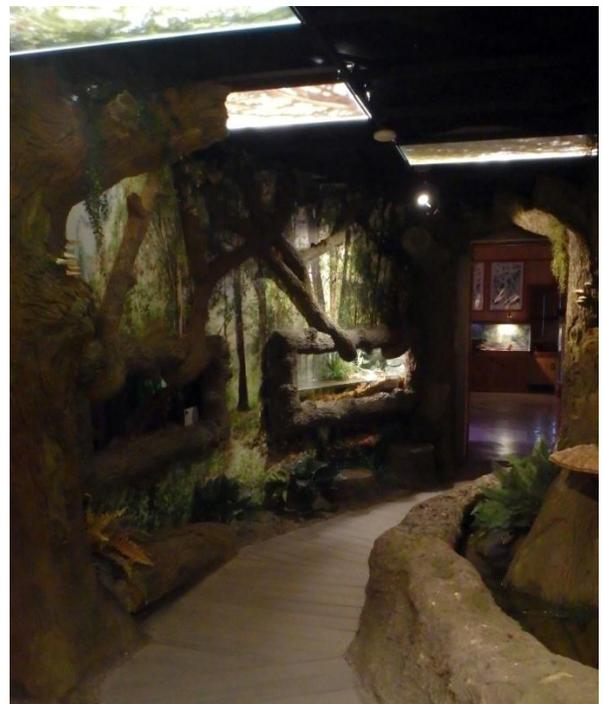
Since 2001 the Ed Yarborough Nature Center has served as the hub of all Natural Lands educational programming and hosts several thousand students and visitors a year. Set up in a classroom style setting, existing exhibits include habitat vivaria featuring living examples of native flora and fauna, a microscope study station, animal skull display and other interesting items from nature. The wetlands room addition, with its realistic replica trees, flowing stream with turtle pond and floor to ceiling wall treatments, immerses visitors in a Florida wetland experience. As you walk along a boardwalk you can view native species of turtles, fish, amphibians and even an American Alligator. Look closer and you may discover animal tracks or natural artifacts stuck in the mud. This exciting addition to the nature center has been a big hit with visiting students and our camp kids that attend our winter, spring and summer break Eco-Camps. The improvements were completed in March 2015.

"Wetlands Room" Improvements:

1. Six (6) replica trees complete with bark, knot holes and fungi.
2. A flowing stream that leads to a small turtle pond.
3. Live animal displays featuring native turtles, fish, sirens (aquatic salamander) and an American Alligator.
4. A meandering boardwalk guides you through the wetlands experience
5. Stumps and logs that double as steps for the smaller visitors to get a better view of the animals on display



Turtle pond wrapping around the base of a replica 'tree'



Boardwalk between the alligator tank and the turtle pond leading towards the main Nature Center room